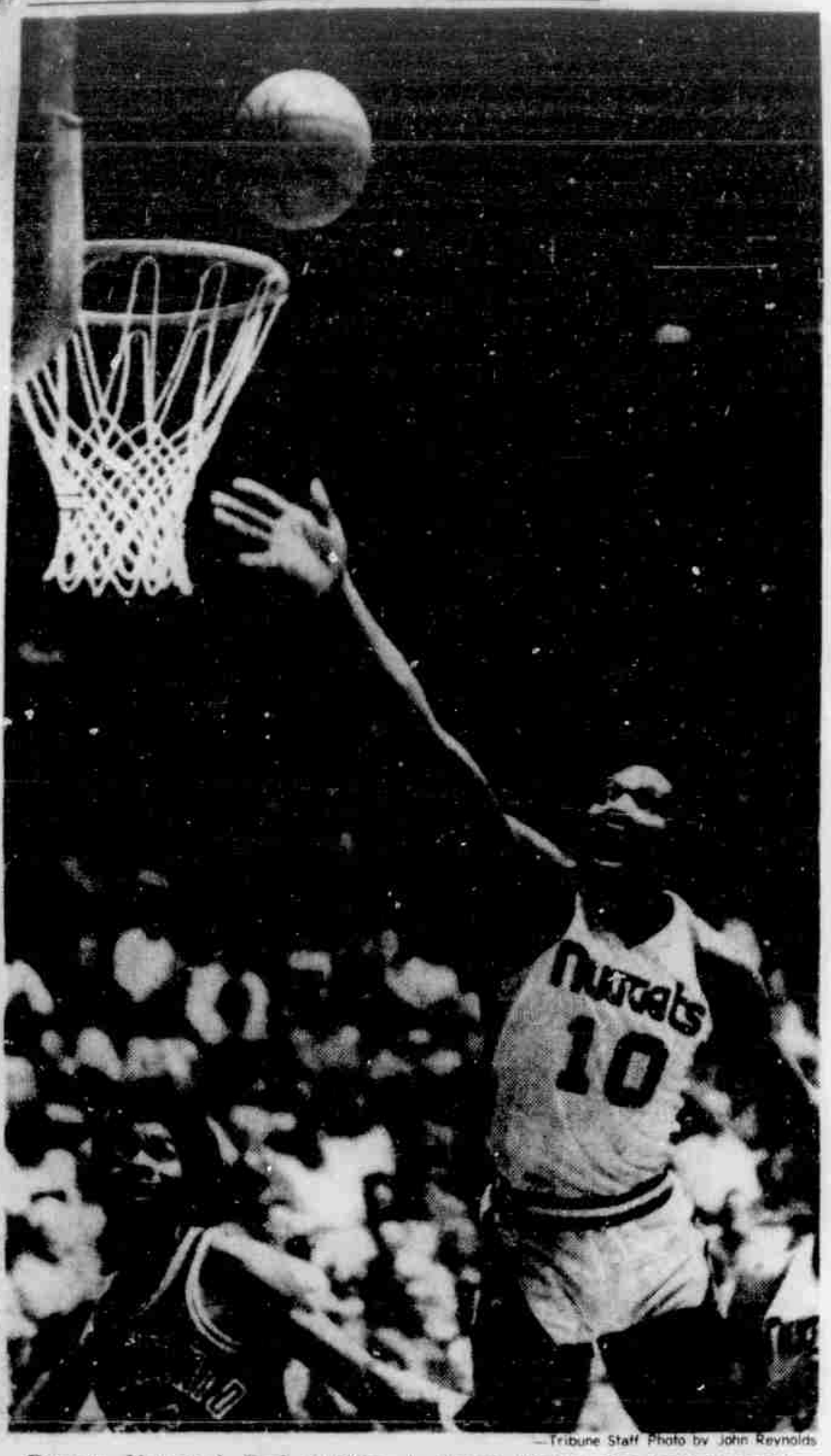


—Tribune Staff Photo by John Reynolds

Denver Nuggets' Rod Griffin (10) battles San Antonio's Larry Kenon for ball in NBA contest at U. of U. Monday.

Denver Zips To Win Over Spurs

By Lex Hemphill
Tribune Sports Writer

Doug Moe was joking after Monday night's exhibition game that the Nuggets might beat his Spurs by 60 points in the regular season opener, when Denver gets all its players back.

"They outplayed us by 40 points," said Moe, after the Nuggets defeated the Spurs, 118-112 at the University of Utah's Special Events Center before 8,120 fans.

Moe didn't think his team played too hard Monday, but then it was an exhibition game, the last one for both teams before these two old ABA rivals open their third NBA season against each other Friday night in Denver.

The Spurs, who concluded their exhibition season at 6-2, couldn't get too excited, because it wasn't the real Nuggets they were playing. Dan Issel's wife had a baby Monday so he stayed in Denver; George McGinnis sat out the game with a cold; and David Thompson, hampered throughout the pre-season with a groin injury, played just 12 minutes before watching the second half in street clothes.

Must Make Cuts

But while it was only an exhibition game for the starters who are assured their NBA jobs this season, it was the last chance for some of the borderline players to impress before both Moe and Denver coach Larry Brown cut down to the roster limit of 11 before Friday.

Certainly, Nugget forwards Rod Griffin and Bo Ellis played like it was a last chance. Brown, who maintained after the game that he still wants to keep Geff Crompton as a third center, must cut two forwards, one of which would probably be Hollis Copeland, who played only eight minutes Monday. The other could be Griffin or Ellis.

But the two of them played solid games Monday. Griffin and Ellis were the top two Denver scorers with 19 and 17 points respectively, both easily their high point games in the pre-season, which the Nuggets ended with a 5-3 record.

While Griffin did most of his damage in the first half with 15 points and nine rebounds, Ellis was around in the fourth quarter, when the Nuggets broke open a close game. Ellis, who got most of his seven baskets on short baseline jumpers, launched an eight-point Denver streak midway through the fourth quarter with three free throws, breaking a 94-94 tie.

Spurs Make Run

The Nuggets led by eight, 104-96, with four and a half minutes left, when the Spurs, who shot a miserable 39 percent from the floor for the game as compared with their normal 55 percent accuracy over their previous seven games, made one last run. They scored eight straight points, four by Mark Olberding, to get even at 104.

Two free throws by Olberding created the last tie at 106 with three minutes left, when the Nuggets went on another run. This time it went for 10 points, sparked by Anthony Roberts and Robert Smith, the 5-11 guard from UNLV.

Roberts, the other starting forward opposite McGinnis in the regular Denver scheme, didn't score a basket in the first three quarters, but he got 14 points in the fourth to help the Nuggets pull away. He got four of them on that final 10-point streak that iced the game at 116-106 with 1:12 left.

The Spurs put seven players in double figures, but only Mike Gale had a particularly effective shooting night. Even the Iceman, George Gervin, was a bit cool with four-for-10 shooting. He still finished as the game's high scorer with 21 points, and that appropriately included a three-point bomb in the third quarter, the only one of the game.

Larry Kenon, the other half of the Spurs' high-scoring tandem, tallied 16 points, four of them on free throws following Denver technical fouls. The Nuggets, apparently indicating that the game really meant something after all, were called for three technicals in the first quarter.

Absence of Denver Aces Tarnishes NBA Game

By Steve Wilson
Assistant Sports Editor

The NBA exhibition season is for laughs. At least it would seem that way judging from the mood generated at Monday night's Denver-San Antonio basketball game in the Special Events Center.

Spurs coach Doug Moe, clutching a beer postgame and doing his best to be funny, had the most pithy comments on the "this is no serious business" theme.

"First of all," Moe explained, "we look out there and (Dan) Issel and (George) McGinnis aren't playing for Denver. Then we come out in the second half and (David) Thompson's not even in uniform. It was more like a practice out there tonight than a game.

"Also, we know we're going to have to play these guys again Friday in the regular season opener. To tell you the truth, I wasn't excited. And if I'm not excited, how can I expect my players to be?"

Idealists May Sneer

The idealists may sneer at Moe, but of course he was right. There is no sense getting worked up over a preliminary to an 82-game schedule.

In spite of all this, it was reasonably good entertainment for the 8,120 October basketball fanatics. True, Issel was in Denver as his wife gave birth to a child, McGinnis had a fever, and Thompson sat out the second half, in street clothes no less, with a pulled groin muscle. But the marginal players, perhaps fearful of their jobs, put on a good show.

Take the Nuggets' Rod Griffin and Bo Ellis, for instance. They are two of six forwards currently on the Denver roster, and it is felt that one of them must go when coach Larry Brown cuts his 13-man team to the regulation 11. His choice will be difficult, as Griffin totaled 19 points and 11 rebounds and Ellis had 17 points and eight rebounds Monday.

"I don't know what to do, you guys tell me," laughed Brown, speaking clearly despite having a microphone so close to his mouth he could have sprinkled some salt on it and taken a bite.

Almost Certain to Go

One forward, rookie Hollis Copeland from Rutgers, is almost certain to go. That leaves Griffin and Ellis in tossup status.

"That decision will be made by somebody else, so I'm not worrying about it," said Griffin, the impressive 6-6 rookie from Wake Forest and Denver's first-round draft choice. "I just try to play as hard as I can as long as I can.

"Denver's a nice situation, and I would like to stay with them. I like the coaching staff, the guys on the team, the area and the management. So I'll do what's in the script and play the coach's style."

That style consisted of sweeping the offensive and defensive backboards, taking part on the fast break, and coming through with some extras — like a zigzag drive he made to the hoop for two points in the first half.

Griffin is well aware of the changes in pro and college basketball.

"At Wake Forest," he noted, "I would play for 40 minutes and had to pace myself. Now I'm not worried about that. You go hard all the time because there are so many good players who can take your place."

No Animosity

Since it is the exhibition season, coaches and players from opposite sides can joke and take it easy with one another. As an example, Moe and Nugget guard Charlie Scott exchanged greetings after the game, with Moe getting in a needle.

"Charlie," he smiled, "I don't know why you want to go from one team to another. Everybody loves you, nobody wants to get rid of you."

L.A., Olympics Group Reach Accord for '80

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee gave its final approval Monday, by an overwhelming 74-3 margin, to Los Angeles to stage the 1984 Summer Games.

The special mail ballot among IOC members, which also drew eight abstentions, approved a decision by the executive board in August which had recommended acceptance of Los Angeles' plan to hold and finance the Games.

"This is fantastic news," said Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. "It's a major achievement for the thousands of people who were involved in the effort to return the Olympics to Los Angeles for the past 30 years. I'm very pleased that we have been able to secure the 1984 Olympics on our terms—without financial responsibility falling to the city or the people of Los Angeles."

Pros Sign Connor, Set Radio Deal

By Lex Hemphill
Tribune Sports Writer

The Utah Prospectors of the fledgling Western Basketball Association brought a radio announcer and their first-round draft choice into the fold Monday.

Steve Connor, the talented 6-3 guard from Boise State and the Pros' first-round pick in the WBA's Sept. 27 draft, said Monday that he had signed his contract with the Pros and mailed it to their Salt Lake office.

Meanwhile, in Salt Lake, the Pros announced that Jerry Howarth, who has been the popular radio voice of the Salt Lake Gulls' Pacific Coast League baseball team the past three years, will call all 60 Pros games, home and away.

Howarth's broadcasts will be heard on KALL radio, as KALL executives Homer K. Peterson and Bennie Williams announced that KALL would broadcast live all the Prospector games for the 1978-79 season.

Howarth, who also takes over as the Prospectors' full-time Communications Director, left the Gulls following this past summer. He was Utah's Sportscaster of the Year in 1977.

Connor, one of the outstanding guards in the Big Sky Conference over the past three winters while playing for his father Bus at Boise, said he signed his contract Monday, thus making him the fifth Prospector under contract to the team. The previously signed Pros are Sam Smith, Jay Cheesman, T.J. Robinson, and Donnie von Moore.

"I'm really happy to be able to continue playing," said Connor. "It sounds to me like it will be a competitive league. It's an opportunity for a lot of players to continue playing."

Of course, the seven-team league is also set up to give just-cut NBA prospects the chance to hone their skills for possibly another shot at sticking with an NBA club. And Connor is not overlooking that angle.

"That's what I'm thinking about," he admitted.

Connor's confidence that he could play in the NBA was bolstered by his performance in the Washington Bullets' training camp. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Bullets in last June's draft.

"Coach (Dick) Motta said that, if there were 12 spots on the roster, I would have made it," said Connor, who noted that the only two rookies the NBA champs kept were Roger Phegley and Dave Corzine.

"I wasn't awed or anything," said Connor about his experience in the NBA. "I felt confident I could play basketball with anyone. After we got going, I was more sure I could play in the NBA. They're just basketball players. A lot of it depends on getting the right breaks at the right time. There are a lot of players capable of playing in the NBA but who aren't because they weren't in the right place at the right time."

Connor said that playing collegiately in the Big Sky Conference actually helped prepare him for the NBA. He noted that while the overall talent may not have existed in the Big Sky, the league's physical, aggressive style of play helped him once he got to the Bullets.

Connor was one of eight players drafted by Utah in the Sept. 27 draft. The Pros expect that former University of Utah forward Buster Matheney will come to town this week with a signed contract. They have been in contact with and are hopeful of signing three other draftees: St. Bonaventure's Greg Sanders, Merrimack's Dana Skinner, and Seton Hall's Greg Tynes.

The Pros' second choice, Colorado State's Alan Cunningham, has signed with the Harlem Globetrotters, knocking him out of the picture. And the club has not been in contact with its other two choices, Utah State's Mike Santos and former Houston Rocket Ed Ratleff.

Prospector coach Dick Nemelka, meanwhile, is preparing his strategy for the Oct. 17 WBA draft in Great Falls, where the seven clubs will select the last of the NBA cuts, the players who should become the stars of the league.

Among more recent NBA cuts who would be available for the next draft are: Larry McNeill, Jim DeWeese, Ollie Johnson, Andre McCarter, Essie Hollis, Mo Layton, Rickey Lee, Mike Russell, C.J. Kupec, Keven McDonald, John Olive, Rich Laurel, Bob Bigelow, and Fred Saunders.

Rayco Car Service
COAST-TO-COAST
LET THE PROS DO IT
IF WE SAY, WE'LL FIX IT, WE'LL FIX IT.

Fall Festival of Mufflers
Save up to $30*
$21.99 INSTALLED
Additional Parts Extra FOR ALMOST ALL AMERICAN CARS
SPECIALISTS IN FOREIGN CAR MUFFLERS & BRAKES

Fall Festival of Convertible Tops
$144.99

Fall Festival of Seat Covers
$49.99
I GOT COVERED AT Rayco

4-WHEEL BRAKE RELINE
INSTALLED BY FACTORY TRAINED MECHANIC
• Replace lining and shoes to all 4 wheels
• Turn Drums
• Complete check of all hydraulic systems
• Adjust
30,000 mile wear guarantee
INCLUDES PARTS AND LABOR
$32.99 Most Amer. Cars and trucks

DISC BRAKE JOB
INCLUDES PARTS & LABOR
1. New front pads installed
2. Pack wheel bearings (outer)
3. Inspect calipers
30,000-mile wear guarantee
$29.99
Most American & Foreign Cars & Trucks

NEW TIRES
4 PLY POLYESTER WHITE WALLS

A78-13	24.99
E78-14	27.99
F78-14	28.99
G78-14	30.99
560x15	25.99
G78x15	30.99
H78-15	33.99
L78-15	37.99

All prices plus Fed. Ex. Tax depending upon size 1.72 - 3.15

FREE FRONT END ALIGNMENT
With purchase of 2 or more of these new tires for most cars
MOUNTED FREE

TIRE SALE
13 and 14 and 15 inch RETREAD TIRES
Cash & Carry
$12.88

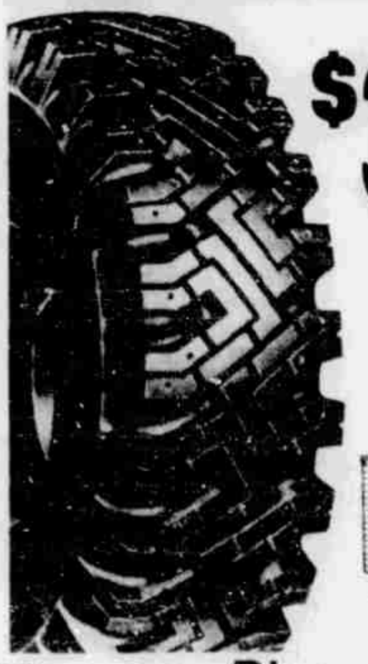
Phone 364-8431
Open All Day Saturday
1147 So. State
Instant Credit
All Bank Cards Welcome

This Week Only!
Oil Change
$5.88
INSTALLED

Give your car's valuable engine parts the lubrication protection they need with an oil change at regular intervals. Right now we will replace your car's oil with up to 5 quarts of Quaker State Super Blend Motor Oil at this special price. Most American cars.

Phone for a time saving appointment.

LIGHT TRUCK TRACTION TIRES
Value Priced!



$37.08
SIZE 6.70-15
6 PLY RATING
TUBE-TYPE
BLACKWALL
plus $2.73 F.E.T.

The General GLT Traction provides good all weather traction at an economy price. Featuring a wide, flat tread for long mileage.

Larger sizes comparably priced.

This Week Only!
Front Axle Disc Brake Reline
$44.88
Rear Brakes Extra
We install new Delco Disc Brake Pads, inspect rear wheel cylinders, rotors, master cylinder, brake hoses, grease seals, and repack front bearings. Most U.S. cars.

Charge it at General
We also honor:
• Master Charge
• VISA
• Diners Club
• American Express
We want you on good terms

Oil Change and Brake Reline. Not Available at Jensen Bros.

RAIN CHECK: Should our supply of some sizes or lines run short during this event, we will honor any orders placed now for future delivery at the advertised price.

Sooner or later, you'll own Generals
General Tire Store prices and credit terms. Product availability and prices may vary at independent dealers displaying the General sign.

GENERAL TIRE SERVICE
1388 South 300 West
Salt Lake 486-8546

ALLEN'S AUTOMOTIVE
4485 West 3500 South
Granger 969-1421

JENSEN BROS.
2950 South 300 West
Salt Lake 487-8976
136-38th Street, Ogden